# Ensemble Inequivalence and the Spin-Glass Transition

#### Zsolt Bertalan‡ and Kazutaka Takahashi§

Department of Physics, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo 152-8551, Japan

**Abstract.** We report on the ensemble inequivalence in a many-body spin-glass model with integer spin. The spin-glass phase transition is of first order for certain values of the crystal field strength and is dependent whether it was derived in the microcanonical or the canonical ensemble. In the limit of infinitely many-body interactions, the model is the integer-spin equivalent of the random-energy model, and is solved exactly. We also derive the integer-spin equivalent of the de Almeida-Thouless line.

#### 1. Introduction

The circumstance that two statistical ensembles lead to different results for some systems, called ensemble inequivalence, is one of the most perplexing phenomena in statistical physics. It was known for gravitational systems [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] long before the application to spin systems ten years ago [6]. The re-discovery of ensemble inequivalence sparked renewed interest and brought about many studies (for reviews see [7, 8, 9, 10, 11]). A prominent feature of ensemble inequivalence is the emergence of negative specific heat in the microcanonical ensemble. In the canonical ensemble, specific heat is always positive, since the free energy is always a concave function. On the other hand, the microcanonical entropy as a function of the internal energy, around a first order transition can have a stable convex intruder [12]. Another feature of ensemble inequivalence is the occurrence of mixed phases in the microcanonical phase diagram, when the temperature and another, possibly external, control parameter are chosen as axes. This is the direct result of a convex intruder in the entropy as a function of energy, since then two distinct phases can exist at the same temperature. For more intriguing properties of this phenomenon we refer the reader to the literature, e.g. [7].

The best known occurrence of ensemble inequivalence is in long-range interacting systems which have a first-order phase transition [13, 14, 15], but similar properties also occur in driven systems with local dynamics [16, 17]. An interaction is said to be of long range when it decays slower than  $1/r^{\alpha}$ , where r is the spatial distance between interacting objects and the value of  $\alpha$  is smaller than the system's dimension, or when the system size is of comparable order as the range of the interaction. In long-range interacting systems, the energy is not additive, i.e. if two identical sub-systems with energy E are brought into contact, the total energy of the resulting system is not 2E, because interface interactions cannot be neglected.

Such systems appear in virtually every branch of physics, from atomic physics [18] to spin systems [6, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24] and gravitational systems (see [11] and references therein). Recently, the effect of randomness on ensemble inequivalence was investigated using many-body interacting spin models in [23, 24]. So far, however, no inequivalence was found for the spin-glass (SG) transition.

The results of the theory of SGs is of interest for many areas of science. Fields like statistical mechanics, information processing, image restoration and neural networks take advantage of the methods first used to describe SGs, see [25, 26, 27] and references therein. Therefore, it will be an important task to study how the ensemble inequivalence appears in SG systems.

In this paper, we investigate a system which shows a first-order transition between paramagnetic and SG phases: the infinite-range, many-body SG model with integer spin, S=1. This model is the mean-field variant of the Blume-Emery-Griffiths model [28], which was introduced to describe mixtures of liquid He3-He4, but with quenched, random interactions. The case of random interactions was first studied for two-body interactions in [29] by using the simple replical symmetric ansatz.

Infinite-range models have the advantage that they are exact in the mean-field ansatz and thus yield valuable limiting cases of more realistic models. Apart from interest for investigations of ensemble inequivalence, our model is another example of the (admittedly, classical) Bose-glass phase, which appears in systems of Helium in porous media [30]. Moreover, taking the limit of infinitely many-body interactions yields for our model an analytically accessible scenario and a generalization of the random energy model (REM) [31, 32, 33, 34].

The organization of the paper is as follows. In section 2, we introduce the model under investigation, and state the results for the thermodynamical potentials. In section 3, we draw the analytically accessible phase diagram of the REM, corresponding to the limit of infinitely-many-body interactions. We also study three-body interacting case in section 4 and p-body case with p>3 in section 5. To clarify the analytical result at  $p\to\infty$ , we investigate numerically how the infinite limit is attained. We conclude our investigations in section 6. In the appendices, we show some technical details of the calculations, in Appendix A we describe the derivation of the replicated thermodynamic potentials, while in Appendix B we derive the de Almeida-Thouless (AT) condition [35, 36] for the many-body integer-spin case.

#### 2. Model

We investigate the properties of a system of N spins, where each spin can take the values +1, 0, -1, and each interacts with every other spin through quenched, random p-body interactions. It is given by the Hamiltonian

$$H = -\sum_{i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_p} J_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p} S_{i_1} S_{i_2} \dots S_{i_p} + D \sum_{i=1}^N (S_i)^2.$$
 (1)

The role of the external field is played by the so-called crystalline anisotropy, whose strength is measured by the parameter D. The interactions  $J_{i_1 i_2 \cdots i_p}$  are quenched random numbers obeying the Gaussian probability distribution

$$\operatorname{Prob}(J_{i_1 \dots i_p}) = \left(\frac{N^{p-1}}{\pi p!}\right)^{1/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{N^{p-1}}{p!}(J_{i_1 \dots i_p})^2\right\}. \tag{2}$$

The limit  $D \to -\infty$  corresponds to the Ising model, i.e. only the spin states  $S_i = \pm 1$  contribute to the energy.

The corresponding pure system, namely when the interactions are not random and are all equal, is known as the Blume-Emery-Griffiths model [28]. It was shown in [6] that the pure model with p=2 exhibits ensemble inequivalence in the region of the first-order phase transition. For technical reasons, explained below, we will treat only the many-body interacting case with p>2.

Using the standard methods of replica theory (see e.g. [26]), we can calculate the thermodynamic potentials, the free energy in the canonical and the entropy in the microcanonical ensemble. We employ the one-step replica symmetry breaking (1RSB)

[37, 38, 39] ansatz for the SG order parameter. Here, we only give the results and the details are described in Appendix A.

In the canonical ensemble, the free energy density is obtained as a function of the order parameters as

$$\beta \phi = -\frac{\beta^2}{4} \chi^p + \hat{\chi} \chi + \frac{\beta^2}{4} (1 - x) q^p - \frac{1 - x}{2} \hat{q} q + \beta D \chi - \frac{1}{x} \ln \left\{ \int Dz \left[ 1 + 2e^{\hat{\chi} - \hat{q}/2} \cosh(\sqrt{\hat{q}} z) \right]^x \right\},$$
 (3)

while the entropy density in the microcanonical ensemble is from

$$\sigma = -\frac{(\epsilon - D\chi)^2}{\chi^p - (1 - x)q^p} - \hat{\chi}\chi + \frac{1 - x}{2}\hat{q}q + \frac{1}{x}\ln\left\{\int Dz \left[1 + 2e^{\hat{\chi} - \hat{q}/2}\cosh(\sqrt{\hat{q}}z)\right]^x\right\},\tag{4}$$

where  $\beta=1/T$  is the inverse temperature,  $\epsilon=E/N$  is the energy per spin and  $Dz=dz\exp(-z^2/2)/\sqrt{2\pi}$ . The symbols  $\chi$ , q and x are variables parametrizing the 1RSB solution. Here, q is the spin glass order parameter,  $\chi$  is the quadrupole moment and x is the Parisi RSB parameter. The order parameters have the following physical meaning:

$$q = [\langle S_i^{\alpha} S_i^{\beta} \rangle] \quad \text{and } \chi = [\langle (S_i^{\alpha})^2 \rangle],$$
 (5)

where [...] and  $\langle ... \rangle$  represent the configurational and thermal average, respectively. Therefore, q can be thought to measure the correlation of spins in different replicas and  $\chi$  measures the fraction of spins in the Ising states  $S_i \in \pm 1$  within a single replica. The parameter x has no clear physical meaning, but can be thought to measure the degree of RSB in the system.

The variables with the hat symbol,  $\hat{q}$  and  $\hat{\chi}$ , are the Fourier modes of q and  $\chi$ , respectively. The modes are related to the physical quantities through saddle-point equations specified in Appendix A. We can easily see that the generalized thermodynamic potentials  $\phi$  and  $\sigma$  are formally related via  $\beta\phi=\beta\epsilon-\sigma$ , when the caloric relation

$$\beta = -\frac{2(\epsilon - D\chi)}{\chi^p - (1 - x)q^p} \tag{6}$$

is used.

The stable branches of the free energy are determined by the condition

$$f(\beta) = \min_{\chi} \max_{q,x} \phi(\chi, q, x, \beta), \tag{7}$$

and of the entropy by

$$s(\epsilon) = \max_{\chi} \min_{q,x} \sigma(\chi, q, x, \epsilon). \tag{8}$$

These extremization conditions give the saddle-point equations

$$\chi = \int D'z \frac{2e^{\hat{\chi} - \hat{q}/2} \cosh(\sqrt{\hat{q}}z)}{1 + 2e^{\hat{\chi} - \hat{q}/2} \cosh(\sqrt{\hat{q}}z)},\tag{9}$$

$$q = \int D'z \left\{ \frac{2e^{\hat{\chi} - \hat{q}/2} \sinh(\sqrt{\hat{q}}z)}{1 + 2e^{\hat{\chi} - \hat{q}/2} \cosh(\sqrt{\hat{q}}z)} \right\}^2$$
 (10)

and

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}q\hat{q} - \frac{\beta^2}{4}q^p\right)x^2 = x\int D'z\ln\left(1 + 2e^{\hat{\chi} - \hat{q}/2}\cosh(\sqrt{\hat{q}}z)\right)$$
(11)

$$-\ln\left\{\int Dz\left[1+2e^{\hat{\chi}-\hat{q}/2}\cosh(\sqrt{\hat{q}}z)\right]^x\right\},\qquad(12)$$

where

$$\int D'z \left(\cdots\right) = \frac{\int Dz \left\{1 + 2e^{\hat{\chi} - \hat{q}/2} \cosh(\sqrt{\hat{q}}z)\right\}^x \left(\cdots\right)}{\int Dz \left\{1 + 2e^{\hat{\chi} - \hat{q}/2} \cosh(\sqrt{\hat{q}}z)\right\}^x}.$$
(13)

As stated, the saddle-point equations lead to multiple branches of  $\sigma$  and  $\phi$ , which all correspond to various stable, meta-stable and unstable phases. Ensemble inequivalence occurs when there is no one-to-one correspondence of the stability of the branches of the thermodynamic potentials. It may happen, for example, that a stable branch of the entropy corresponds to a meta-stable, or even unstable branch of the free energy. That is a macrostate realized in the microcanonical ensemble, might not exist in the canonical ensemble. This scenario appears, however, only for first-order phase transitions [7], since at second-order transitions there are no meta-stable solutions of the saddle-point equations.

The final remark to be made in this section is on the validity of the 1RSB ansatz. In the standard p-body Ising SG with  $S_i = \pm 1$ , for p > 2 the replica-symmetric solution of the SG phase does not show up and the replica symmetry is already broken just below the SG transition temperature, justifying the 1RSB-ansatz. At low temperatures, the 1RSB solution becomes unstable and the SG phase is described by the full-step replica symmetry breaking solution [40, 41]. We expect that a similar scenario holds in the present integer-spin case. In the following, we will show that this is indeed the case. However, for p = 2, the SG phase is described by the full-step replica symmetry breaking solution and the 1RSB solution does not appear. That is the reason why we consider only p > 2. For a canonical analysis with p = 2, see [29].

# 3. Infinitely-many-body interactions $(p \to \infty)$

In the limit  $p = \infty$ , our model (1) is the spin-1 equivalent of the REM [31, 32, 33]. The saddle-point equations (9) and (10) can be solved analytically and have three simple solutions. These yield three respective branches of the free energy and the entropy, which we identify as paramagnetic (P), Ising paramagnetic (IP), and SG phases. These phases are characterized through the order parameters as

P: q = 0,  $\chi < 1$ , IP: q = 0,  $\chi = 1$ , SG: q = 1,  $\chi = 1$ ,

in both ensembles. It is thus not a-priory clear where ensemble inequivalence should occur on the level of macrostates. The aims of the present section is to clarify this point. This will be done by comparing the canonical and microcanonical phase diagrams.

#### 3.1. Canonical ensemble

The saddle-point equations always allow the solution q = 0. In that case, we get a self-consistent equation for  $\chi$  as

$$\chi = \frac{2\exp\left(-\beta D + \frac{\beta^2}{4}p\chi^{p-1}\right)}{1 + 2\exp\left(-\beta D + \frac{\beta^2}{4}p\chi^{p-1}\right)}.$$
(14)

In the limit  $p \to \infty$ , there are two possibilities,  $\chi < 1$  ( $\chi^p \to 0$ ) and  $\chi = 1$ , corresponding to the P and IP phases respectively.

In the P phase, the order parameter

$$\chi = \frac{2e^{-\beta D}}{1 + 2e^{-\beta D}},\tag{15}$$

corresponds to the fraction of spins that take the value  $\pm 1$ . The free energy in this phase is given by

$$f_{\rm P} = -\frac{1}{\beta} \ln \left( 1 + 2e^{-\beta D} \right). \tag{16}$$

In the IP phase, the zero-spin state plays no role and each spin takes the value  $\pm 1$  only, so that  $\chi = 1$ . The free energy here is

$$f_{\rm IP} = D - \frac{1}{\beta} \ln 2 - \frac{\beta}{4},$$
 (17)

which coincides with the standard Ising result as expected, except for a trivial shift by D. At temperatures lower than the critical temperature defined by

$$T_{\rm c} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\ln 2}},\tag{18}$$

the IP state becomes unphysical, and the spin-glass phase has to take over. For any q < 1, the saddle-point equations yield the solution q = 0 and the SG phase appears only at q = 1. Here, we have also  $\chi = 1$  from the requirement  $\chi \geq q$ . Then, the free energy takes the form

$$f = D - \frac{\beta}{4}x - \frac{1}{\beta x}\ln 2. \tag{19}$$

The parameter x is determined by the extremal condition  $\partial f/\partial x = 0$  as

$$x = \frac{T}{T_c} = 2T\sqrt{\ln 2}.\tag{20}$$

We obtain the SG phase solution as

$$f_{\rm SG} = D - \sqrt{\ln 2},\tag{21}$$

where the zero spin state is irrelevant and the result is essentially the same as in the standard REM.

The phase boundaries can be easily obtained analytically by equating the free energies of two respective phases. We get each phase boundary as follows.

P-IP: 
$$1 + 2e^{-\beta D} = 2e^{-\beta D + \beta^2/4}$$
, (22)

$$IP-SG: T = T_c, (23)$$

P-SG: 
$$1 + 2e^{-\beta D} = 2e^{-\beta D + \beta\sqrt{\ln 2}}$$
. (24)

The resulting canonical phase diagram is drawn in figure 1a) with red lines. The SG phase exists at low temperatures for  $D < 2D_c$  where

$$D_{\rm c} = \frac{\sqrt{\ln 2}}{2}.\tag{25}$$

The P-SG transition for  $D_{\rm c} < D < 2D_{\rm c}$  is of first order. At  $D = D_{\rm c}$ , there is a tricritical point where the P, IP and SG phases meet. For  $D < D_{\rm c}$ , there is a first-order P-IP transition, whose transition temperature increases with decreasing D. The second-order IP-SG transition is at the critical temperature  $T_{\rm c}$  for any  $D < D_{\rm c}$ , thus regardless of the crystal field strength. As  $D \to -\infty$ , the P-IP transition temperature diverges and we recover the standard REM result with only the IP and SG phases present.

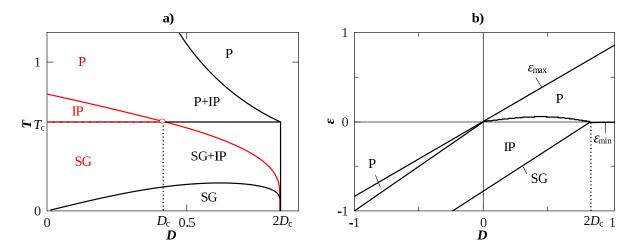


Figure 1. a) Phase diagram of the integer-spin REM in the (D,T)-plane. The canonical phase boundaries are drawn in red, and the microcanonical phase boundaries are overlaid in black for comparison. The canonical (microcanonical) phases are marked in red (black) letters. The red circle indicates the tricritical point and the second order IP-SG transitions line is the red dashed line. b) Microcanonical phase diagram in the  $(D,\epsilon)$ -plane.

#### 3.2. Microcanonical ensemble

Similarly to the canonical case, the solutions of the microcanonical entropy can be calculated explicitly and we have

$$s_{\rm IP} = \ln 2 - (\epsilon - D)^2,\tag{26}$$

$$s_{\rm P} = \frac{\epsilon}{D} \ln 2 - \frac{\epsilon}{D} \ln \frac{\epsilon}{D} - \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{D}\right) \ln \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{D}\right),\tag{27}$$

$$s_{SG} = 0. (28)$$

The phase diagram is determined by comparing these results, but in contrast to the canonical case, the higher entropy wins. Physics requires furthermore that the entropy is positive. We plot the entropy densities in the P (black) and IP (red) phases in figure 2. When the entropy reaches zero, the system freezes to the ground state and the SG phase

is realized (not shown). In each phase, the energy range is specified by

$$IP: D - \sqrt{\ln 2} < \epsilon < D, \tag{29}$$

P: 
$$0 < \epsilon < \frac{2}{3}D \ (D > 0)$$
 and  $D < \epsilon < \frac{2}{3}D \ (D < 0)$ , (30)

$$SG: \epsilon = D - \sqrt{\ln 2}. \tag{31}$$

We note furthermore that in figure 2 the region where the respective entropies are stable are drawn in thick lines.

The microcanonical phase diagram in the  $(D, \epsilon)$ -plane is shown in figure 1b). In this case, the values that the energy density for each phase can take are limited, denoted by  $\epsilon_{\min}$  and  $\epsilon_{\max}$  respectively. We also see that the SG phase lies on a single line in the phase diagram, because it exists only for one value of the energy for a fixed D. For  $D < 2D_c$  this is the  $\epsilon_{\min}$ -line. Therefore, the temperature  $1/T = ds/d\epsilon$  is not well defined in the SG-phase and has to be extrapolated from finite p-phase diagrams.

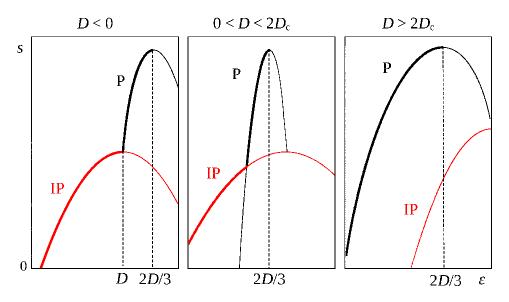


Figure 2. Entropy density  $s(\epsilon)$  in the IP (red) and P (black) phases. The equilibrium entropy follows bold parts. The leftmost panel shows the case for D < 0, as can be seen, the P phase reaches all temperatures in the interval  $[0, \infty)$ , while the IP phase exists in the range  $[T_c, \infty)$  where both phases coexist. The middle panel shows a situation where there is a P-IP transition at finite temperature is realized, while the rightmost panel shows a situation where the IP phase is unstable.

The ensemble inequivalence becomes apparent when we change the dependent variable from  $\epsilon$  to T according to relation (6) and thus transform the microcanonical phase diagram from the  $(D, \epsilon)$ -plane to the (D, T)-plane. The result is shown in figure 1a) in black. We see that it is qualitatively different from the canonical result shown in the same figure in black. The IP-SG transition is of second order and that phase boundary coincides in both ensembles. The other boundaries are totally different from each other. With reference to figure 2 we see that there is no one-to-one correspondence between T and  $\epsilon$  for crystal-field strengths  $D < 2D_c$ . There are regions such that two

values of  $\epsilon$  correspond to the same temperature. As a result, we have two coexistence phases P+IP and P+SG, as shown in figure 1a).

We find that the canonical and microcanonical phase diagrams are very different and it is hard to find common properties except the IP-SG boundary. We presume that one of the reasons for this discrepancy is the peculiarity of the  $p \to \infty$  limit [23, 24]. Therefore, we will study the finite-p case in the next section, to see how this deviations come about.

## 4. Three-body interactions (p = 3)

In this section, by solving the saddle-point equations with numerical help, we derive the phase diagrams of the Hamiltonian (1) for p = 3.

#### 4.1. Phase diagram

In the canonical ensemble, there is only a phase transition from the paramagnetic phase to the SG phase. We note that the IP phase appears only when the limit  $p \to \infty$  is taken. We draw the phase diagram in figure 3a) in red. The transition is of second order for D < 0.724 and of first order until the SG-phase terminates at  $D = D_{\text{CA}} \approx 0.84$ .

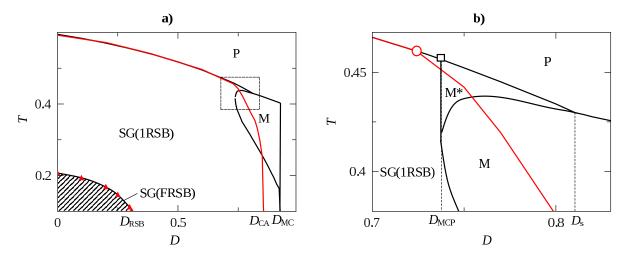


Figure 3. a) Phase diagram in the (D,T)-plane with p=3. The microcanonical phase boundaries are shown in black and the canonical in red. The black line with triangles is the AT line. b) Detail of a) denoted by the box with dashed edges. The red circle corresponds to the canonical multicritical point, where the P-SG transition goes from second order (left) to first order (right). The microcanonical multicritical point is at  $D_{\rm MCP}$  and is symbolized by a black square.

In the microcanonical ensemble, the phase diagram in the  $(D, \epsilon)$ -plane is shown in figure 4 and is summarized as follows.

•  $D < D_{\rm MCP} \approx 0.737$ There is a second-order P-SG phase transition as in the canonical case.

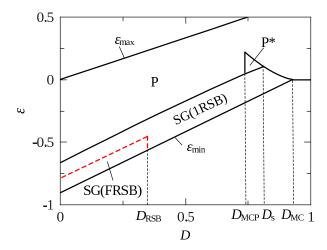


Figure 4. Microcanonical phase diagram in the  $(D, \epsilon)$ -plane.  $\epsilon_{\text{max}}$  and  $\epsilon_{\text{min}}$  are the maximal and minimal attainable energies respectively. The red dashed line is the AT line.

#### • $D_{\rm MCP} < D < D_{\rm s} \approx 0.81$

In this case, as the energy is lowered, we first observe a first-order transition in the paramagnetic phase. The order parameter  $\chi$  jumps as depicted in figure 5a). The jump in  $\chi$  is at  $\epsilon = \epsilon^{\rm I}$  and is indicated by the black arrows in the figure. We denote this paramagnetic phase P\*. As the energy decreases further, there is a phase transition from P\* to SG at  $\epsilon = \epsilon^{\rm II}$ . The P\*-SG transition is of second order because at the transition point the Parisi breaking parameter is x = 1, guaranteeing a smooth change in the entropy.

# • $D_{\rm s} < D < D_{\rm MC} \approx 0.92$

The phase P\* becomes meta-stable for all accessible energies and does not appear. The P-SG transition is of first order. The order parameters are shown in figure 5b) for D = 0.83.

•  $D > D_{\mathrm{MC}}$ 

In this case, there is no stable SG phase and we have only the P phase.

When the energy is translated into temperature through the formula (6), we can draw the phase diagram in the (D,T)-plane as shown in figure 3 (black lines). Although the P-SG second-order transition line coincides, the other boundaries do not match. In the microcanonical calculation, the point where the transition changes from being second-order to first-order is  $D = D_{\text{MCP}} \approx 0.737$ , while it is  $D \approx 0.724$  in the canonical. We also see that here the P\* phase does not show up separately. Instead there are two regions where phases coexist: M=P+SG and M\*=P+SG+P\*. We will see in the next subsection how this result is obtained.

#### 4.2. Phase coexistence

Let us now explain shortly, how the mixed phases appear in the (D, T)-plane (figure 3), but not in the  $(D, \epsilon)$ -plane (figure 4). We fix the external field at D = 0.77, so that all

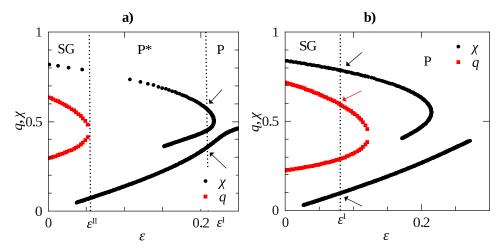


Figure 5. Several branches of the saddle-point solutions of order parameters. a) For D=0.745, there are two successive transitions. At  $\epsilon>\epsilon^{\rm I}$ , the system is in the P phase and the order parameter  $\chi$  takes the lowest branch. It changes discontinuously at  $\epsilon=\epsilon^{\rm I}$  as indicated by the two black arrows. At  $\epsilon^{\rm II}<\epsilon<\epsilon^{\rm I}$ , the system is still in a paramagnetic state, but labeled by P\*. At  $\epsilon=\epsilon^{\rm II}$  the SG order parameter (red squares) jumps from zero (not shown) to a finite value. b) The same as a) but at D=0.83. Here, the phase P\* is meta-stable throughout and thus does not show up. The P-SG transition is of first order, accompanied by a jump in  $\chi$  and q, indicated by the black and red arrows.

phases show up and plot the entropy versus the energy in figure 6a). The corresponding caloric curve  $T(\epsilon)$  is shown in figure 6b). At high energies  $\epsilon > \epsilon^{\rm I}$ , the system is in the P state (black). As the energy is lowered, the temperature decreases as well. At some point the system develops meta-stable and unstable solutions. The meta-stable state corresponds to P\* (blue), the unstable one has no physical meaning, but is plotted for the sake of completeness. At  $\epsilon = \epsilon^{\rm I}$  the entropies of the P and P\* have the same value, but at the crossing point have different slopes,

$$\frac{ds_{\rm P}}{d\epsilon}(\epsilon^{\rm I}) \neq \frac{ds_{\rm P^*}}{d\epsilon}(\epsilon^{\rm I}). \tag{32}$$

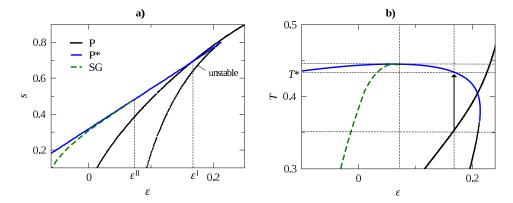
Therefore, the temperature jumps at the transition point,  $T^{\rm I} \to T^*$ , as indicated by an arrow in figure 6b). Noteworthy is now that as the energy is lowered the temperature increases, corresponding to negative specific heat of the P\* phase. At  $\epsilon = \epsilon^{\rm II}$ , the system allows for a SG solution (green dashed) with q > 0. However, this SG-entropy connects smoothly to the P\*-entropy, so that

$$\frac{ds_{\rm SG}}{d\epsilon}(\epsilon^{\rm II}) = \frac{ds_{\rm P^*}}{d\epsilon}(\epsilon^{\rm II}),\tag{33}$$

and there is no temperature jump. Thus, the transition is of second order, although the order parameter q jumps as indicated by figure 5. This is, as mentioned before, a consequence of the replica trick and the 1RSB parameter x guarantees a smooth transition.

Mixed phases appear when we choose a temperature between, say  $T^{\text{II}}$  and  $T^*$ . At such a temperature, we can find stable solutions for every phase, giving rise to the M\*-

mixed phase. The mixed phase M lies between  $T^{I}$  and  $T^{*}$ , and we can not distinguish the SG and the P phases.



**Figure 6.** a) Branches of the entropy versus energy per spin for p=3 at D=0.77: P (black), P\* (blue) and SG (green dashed). b) The corresponding caloric curve. The phase transitions are at  $\epsilon^{\rm I}$  (P-P\*) and at  $\epsilon^{\rm II}$ (P\*-SG).

#### 4.3. AT condition

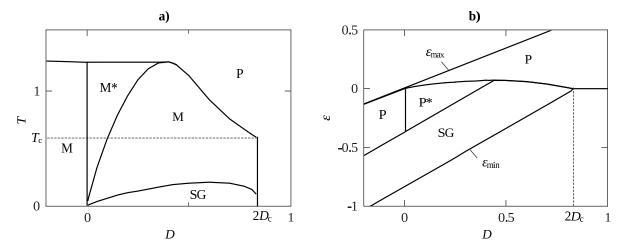
In figure 3 and 4, we plot the AT line, the boundary of the stability region. Below that line, the 1RSB solution of the SG phase is unstable and the full-step replica symmetry breaking solution has to be considered. We derive the AT condition in Appendix B. As we have shown for the Ising system in [36], the conditions in both ensembles are essentially the same and are translated via the caloric relation (6). We confirm that this equivalence holds also in the present case.

## 5. Many-body interactions (p > 3)

For p=3, the situation is still not very elucidating on how the infinite p limit is reached. Similarly to the case p=3, the phase diagram can be obtained numerically for any p. Contrary to expectations, even p=37 shows features different from  $p\to\infty$ , but from figure 7 it is clear how that limit is achieved.

As p grows,  $D_{\text{MCP}} \to 0$ ,  $D_{\text{s}} \to 0$  and  $D_{\text{MC}} \to 2D_{\text{c}}$ , so that the mixed phase M\*, along with P\*, disappears completely as  $p \to \infty$ . Simultaneously, the AT line drifts towards the  $\epsilon_{\text{min}}$ -line, so that the 1RSB solution is stable everywhere.

For infinite p, there is an IP phase, characterized by  $\chi=1$ , which is not present for finite p. As the phase diagram in the limit, figure 1b), suggests, the SG phase off the  $\epsilon_{\min}$ -line, becomes the IP phase. It is because the SG order parameter satisfies q<1 there and such solution is inhibited in the limit  $p\to\infty$ . We also infer that the M phase splits into two parts: P+IP for  $T\geq T_{\rm c}$  and P+SG for  $T< T_{\rm c}$ .



**Figure 7.** Microcanonical phase diagrams in the a) (D, T)-plane and b)  $(D, \epsilon)$ -plane for p = 37.

#### 6. Conclusions

We have investigated an integer-spin SG model, where for finite p > 2 and a certain, p-dependent interval of the crystal-field strength D, the P-SG transition is of first order. This results in ensemble inequivalence along that phase transition. While the canonical phase boundary is a single line and the phases are cleanly separated in the plane with the temperature and the crystal-field strength as axes, various mixed phases appear there in the microcanonical analysis. This has far reaching consequences for the limit  $p \to \infty$ , which corresponds to the integer-spin analogue of REM. There, the ensembles give completely different results for finite values of D, and coincide only in the Ising limit,  $D \to -\infty$ , as expected.

To the best of our knowledge, our analysis is the first that involves the SG transition and ensemble inequivalence, enriching that branch of statistical physics by another important facet. Furthermore, our result strengthens the point of view that the traditional REM shows ensemble inequivalence within the replica ansatz, which have to be contrasted to results that do not use the this method.

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#### Appendix A. Replica analysis

Here we give some technical details on the derivations of the generalized thermodynamic potentials (3) and (4).

#### Appendix A.1. Canonical ensemble

Following the standard strategy of the replica method [25, 26, 27], we can write the average of the nth power of the partition function Z in the canonical ensemble as

$$[Z^{n}] = \operatorname{Tr}\left\{\frac{N\beta^{2}}{4} \sum_{a=1}^{n} \left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (S_{i}^{a})^{2}\right)^{p} + \frac{N\beta^{2}}{4} \sum_{a \neq b} \left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} S_{i}^{a} S_{i}^{b}\right)^{p} -\beta D \sum_{a=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (S_{i}^{a})^{2}\right\}.$$
(A.1)

This expression implies that we can introduce two kinds of order parameters  $\chi_a = (1/N) \sum_{i=1}^{N} (S_i^a)^2$  and  $q_{ab} = (1/N) \sum_{i=1}^{N} S_i^a S_i^b$ , with  $a \neq b$ . In the present case with integer spins,  $(S_i^a)^2$  is not unity, as in the Ising-spin case and  $1 - \chi_a$  measures the fraction of the spins in the zero state. In the Ising limit  $D \to -\infty$ , all spins take values  $S_i^a = \pm 1$ , and therefore  $\chi_a = 1$ . These order parameters are incorporated into the expression of the partition function by delta functions. This generalized Hubbard-Stratonovitch transformation gives us the expression

$$[Z^n] = \int d\chi dq \prod_a \delta \left( \chi_a - \frac{1}{N} \sum_i (S_i^a)^2 \right) \prod_{a \neq b} \delta \left( q_{ab} - \frac{1}{N} \sum_i S_i^a S_i^b \right)$$

$$\times \exp \left\{ \frac{N\beta^2}{4} \sum_a (\chi_a)^p + \frac{N\beta^2}{2} \sum_{a < b} (q_{ab})^p - \beta D \sum_{ai} (S_i^a)^2 \right\}$$

$$= \int d\chi dq d\hat{\chi} d\hat{q} \exp \left\{ \frac{N\beta^2}{4} \sum_a (\chi_a)^p + \frac{N\beta^2}{2} \sum_{a < b} (q_{ab})^p - N\sum_a \hat{\chi}_a \chi_a - N\sum_{a < b} \hat{q}_{ab} q_{ab} - N\beta D \sum_a \chi_a + N \ln \operatorname{Tr} e^L \right\}, \quad (A.2)$$

where

$$L = \sum_{a} \hat{\chi}_a S_a^2 + \sum_{a < b} \hat{q}_{ab} S_a S_b. \tag{A.3}$$

The conjugate variables  $\hat{q}$  and  $\hat{\chi}$  are introduced to express the delta functions in their integral forms. They are related to the order parameters as

$$\hat{\chi}_a = \frac{\beta^2}{4} p \chi_a^{p-1} - \beta D, \tag{A.4}$$

$$\hat{q}_{ab} = \frac{\beta^2}{2} p q_{ab}^{p-1}. \tag{A.5}$$

We impose the 1RSB ansatz for the order parameter  $q_{ab}$  and the replica symmetric one for  $\chi_a$ . The 1RSB form of the SG order-parameter is

$$q_{ab} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } a = b \\ q_1 & \text{for } \lfloor (a-1)/x \rfloor = \lfloor (b-1)/x \rfloor \\ q_0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 (A.6)

where the Parisi breaking parameter x takes values between 1 and n, and  $\lfloor z \rfloor$  is the floor function giving the largest integer not exceeding z. When spin-reflection symmetry is

present,  $q_0$  is zero and we can set  $q_1 = q$ . Then, the spin sum in  $\operatorname{Tr} e^L$  can be performed after a Gaussian insertion as follows,

$$\operatorname{Tr} e^{L} = \prod_{B=1}^{n/x} \int Dz_{B} \operatorname{Tr} \exp \left\{ \left( \hat{\chi} - \frac{1}{2} \hat{q} \right) \sum_{a=1}^{n} S_{a}^{2} + \sqrt{\hat{q}} \sum_{B=1}^{n/x} z_{B} \sum_{a=1+(B-1)x}^{Bx} S_{a} \right\}$$

$$= \prod_{B=1}^{n/x} \int Dz_{B} \left( 1 + 2e^{\hat{\chi} - \hat{q}/2} \cosh(\sqrt{\hat{q}} z_{B}) \right)^{x}$$

$$= \left\{ \int Dz \left( 1 + 2e^{\hat{\chi} - \hat{q}/2} \cosh(\sqrt{\hat{q}} z) \right)^{x} \right\}^{n/x}, \tag{A.7}$$

where  $Dz = dz \exp(-z^2/2)/\sqrt{2\pi}$ . The generalized free energy is defined as

$$\beta \phi = -\lim_{n \to 0} \frac{1}{Nn} \ln[Z^n],\tag{A.8}$$

which then gives (3).

#### Appendix A.2. Microcanonical ensemble

Next, we consider the microcanonical ensemble. The density of states for a given energy E is

$$\Omega = \operatorname{Tr} \delta(E - H) = \int \frac{dt}{2\pi} e^{i(E - H)t}.$$
(A.9)

Due to a formal similarity of this expression to the canonical partition function, we can apply the replica analysis to calculate the bond-average of the entropy  $S = [\ln \Omega]$ . The calculation goes along the same lines as in the case of the Ising-spin system [24]. We find the expression

$$[\Omega^n] = \exp\left\{-N\sum_{ab}(\epsilon - D\chi_a)(Q^{-1})_{ab}(\epsilon - D\chi_b) - N\sum_a \hat{\chi}_a \chi_a - N\sum_{a< b} \hat{q}_{ab}q_{ab} + N\ln \operatorname{Tr} e^L\right\},$$
(A.10)

where  $\epsilon = E/N$  and Q is an  $n \times n$  symmetric matrix whose components are given by

$$Q_{ab} = \begin{cases} (\chi_a)^p & a = b \\ (q_{ab})^p & a \neq b \end{cases} . \tag{A.11}$$

The conjugate variables are obtained from the equations

$$\hat{\chi}_a = p \sum_{bc} \epsilon_b (Q^{-1})_{ba} (\chi_a)^{p-1} (Q^{-1})_{ac} \epsilon_c + 2D \sum_b (Q^{-1})_{ab} \epsilon_b, \tag{A.12}$$

$$\hat{q}_{ab} = 2p \sum_{cd} \epsilon_c (Q^{-1})_{ca} (q_{ab})^{p-1} (Q^{-1})_{bd} \epsilon_d, \tag{A.13}$$

where  $\epsilon_a = \epsilon - D\chi_a$ 

We impose the same 1RSB ansatz as the canonical case to the order parameters. The conjugate variables are given by

$$\hat{\chi} = p\chi^{p-1} \frac{(\epsilon - D\chi)^2}{\{\chi^p - (1-x)q^p\}^2} + 2D \frac{\epsilon - D\chi}{\chi^p - (1-x)q^p},\tag{A.14}$$

$$\hat{q} = 2pq^{p-1} \frac{(\epsilon - D\chi)^2}{\{\chi^p - (1-x)q^p\}^2}.$$
(A.15)

Then, by taking the limit

$$\sigma = \lim_{n \to 0} \frac{1}{Nn} \ln[\Omega^n],\tag{A.16}$$

we obtain (4).

## Appendix B. Derivation of the AT condition

Appendix B.1. Expansion around the saddle-point solution

In this part, the AT condition, the stability condition of a certain replica solution, is derived. We use the canonical ensemble to derive the condition, which can be easily translated into the microcanonical case.

The starting point is equation (A.2), or rather its logarithm as

$$n\beta\phi = -\frac{1}{N}\ln[Z^n]$$

$$= -\frac{\beta^2}{4}\sum_{a}(\chi_a)^p - \frac{\beta^2}{2}\sum_{a< b}(q_{ab})^p + \sum_{a}\hat{\chi}_a\chi_a + \sum_{a< b}\hat{q}_{ab}q_{ab} + \beta D\sum_{a}\chi_a$$

$$-\ln \text{Tr } e^L,$$
(B.2)

where L is given in (A.3). Then, we consider variations of the form

$$\chi_a \to \chi_a + \delta \chi_a,$$
 (B.3)

$$q_{ab} \to q_{ab} + \delta q_{ab},$$
 (B.4)

and accordingly,  $\phi$  is expanded as  $\phi = f + \delta \phi + \delta_2 \phi + \cdots$ . We shall impose some solution of the free energy at the zeroth order of this expansion. Since the saddle-point method is used in the derivation of the free energy, the first order of the variation is equal to zero,  $\delta \phi = 0$ . The second-order term reads

$$\beta n \delta_2 \phi = \frac{1}{2} \sum_a \delta \chi_a \delta_1 \hat{\chi}_a + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a < b} \delta q_{ab} \delta_1 \hat{q}_{ab}$$

$$- \frac{1}{2} \sum_a \sum_b \delta_1 \hat{\chi}_a \delta_1 \hat{\chi}_b \left( \langle S_a^2 S_b^2 \rangle - \chi_a \chi_b \right)$$

$$- \sum_a \sum_{b < c} \delta_1 \hat{\chi}_a \delta_1 \hat{q}_{bc} \left( \langle S_a^2 S_b S_c \rangle - \chi_a q_{bc} \right)$$

$$- \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a < b} \sum_{c < d} \delta_1 \hat{q}_{ab} \delta_1 \hat{q}_{cd} \left( \langle S_a S_b S_c S_d \rangle - q_{ab} q_{cd} \right), \tag{B.5}$$

where

$$\langle \cdots \rangle = \frac{\operatorname{Tr}(\cdots) e^L}{\operatorname{Tr} e^L},$$
 (B.6)

and

$$\delta_1 \hat{\chi}_a = \frac{\beta^2}{4} p(p-1) \chi_a^{p-2} \delta \chi_a, \tag{B.7}$$

$$\delta_1 \hat{q}_{ab} = \frac{\beta^2}{2} p(p-1) q_{ab}^{p-2} \delta q_{ab}. \tag{B.8}$$

Arranging the n elements of  $\delta \chi_a$  and the n(n-1)/2 elements of  $\delta q_{ab}$  into a single vector

$$\delta \mu^T = (\delta \chi_1, \dots, \delta \chi_n, \delta q_{12}, \dots, dq_{n-1,n}), \tag{B.9}$$

we can define a diagonal matrix T which transforms  $\delta \mu$  into  $\delta \hat{\mu}$ , which has  $\delta \hat{\chi}_a$  and  $\delta \hat{q}_{ab}$  as elements:

$$\delta\hat{\mu} = T\delta\mu. \tag{B.10}$$

Then, we can write

$$\beta n \delta_2 \phi = \frac{1}{2} \delta \mu^T (T - TGT) \delta \mu, \tag{B.11}$$

where the elements of the matrix G can be inferred from (B.5). The stability condition is expressed by equations that the eigenvalues of the Hessian matrix T - TGT are nonnegative.

#### Appendix B.2. Stability of the 1RSB solution

We impose the replica symmetric solution for  $\chi_a$  as  $\chi_a = \chi$  and the 1RSB solution for  $q_{ab}$  as (A.6) with  $q_0 = 0$ ,  $q_1 = q$ .

The eigenvalues are calculated as the standard case [26]. The relevant part of the matrix G is components  $\delta q_{ab}$  with  $\lfloor (a-1)/x \rfloor = \lfloor (b-1)/x \rfloor$ . In this block, we have three types of the matrix elements:

$$P = G_{(ab)(ab)} = v - q^2, (B.12)$$

$$Q = G_{(ab)(ac)} = w - q^2, (B.13)$$

$$R = G_{(ab)(cd)} = r - q^2,$$
 (B.14)

where the index denoted as (ab) represents the component  $\delta q_{ab}$  and different symbols are assumed to be unequal. In these expressions, the spin sums denoted as v, w and r are calculated as follows.

$$v = \langle (S_a)^2 (S_b)^2 \rangle = \int D' z \frac{\left\{ 2e^{\hat{\chi} - \hat{q}/2} \cosh(\sqrt{\hat{q}}z) \right\}^2}{\left\{ 1 + 2e^{\hat{\chi} - \hat{q}/2} \cosh(\sqrt{\hat{q}}z) \right\}^2},$$
 (B.15)

$$w = \langle S_a^2 S_b S_c \rangle = \int D' z \frac{2e^{\hat{\chi} - \hat{q}/2} \cosh(\sqrt{\hat{q}}z) \left\{ 2e^{\hat{\chi} - \hat{q}/2} \sinh(\sqrt{\hat{q}}z) \right\}^2}{\left\{ 1 + 2e^{\hat{\chi} - \hat{q}/2} \cosh(\sqrt{\hat{q}}z) \right\}^3}, \quad (B.16)$$

$$r = \langle S_a S_b S_c S_d \rangle = \int D' z \frac{\left\{ 2e^{\hat{\chi} - \hat{q}/2} \sinh(\sqrt{\hat{q}}z) \right\}^4}{\left\{ 1 + 2e^{\hat{\chi} - \hat{q}/2} \cosh(\sqrt{\hat{q}}z) \right\}^4}.$$
 (B.17)

Here, the integral measure is defined as in equation (13).

The stability condition is analogous to the half-integer case, where only one eigenvalue of the Hessian can be negative. The other eigenvalues correspond to

extremization conditions of the free energy and are, therefore, positive by construction. We have the stability condition

$$\frac{2}{\beta^2 p(p-1)q^{p-2}} - (P - 2Q + R) \ge 0, (B.18)$$

where the first term on the left hand side comes from the inverse of the corresponding component of T and can be extracted from (B.8). We finally obtain the AT condition in the canonical ensemble

$$\frac{2}{p(p-1)\beta^2 q^{p-2}} \ge \int D'z \frac{\left\{ (2e^{\tilde{\chi} - \tilde{q}/2})^2 + 2e^{\tilde{\chi} - \tilde{q}/2} \cosh(\sqrt{\tilde{q}}z) \right\}^2}{\left\{ 1 + 2e^{\tilde{\chi} - \tilde{q}/2} \cosh(\sqrt{\tilde{q}}z) \right\}^4}, \tag{B.19}$$

where the conjugate variables are given by (A.4) and (A.5).

It is straightforward to convert the canonical result into the microcanonical one using the relation (6),

$$\frac{\left\{\chi^{p} - (1-x)q^{p}\right\}^{2}}{2p(p-1)q^{p-2}(\epsilon - D\chi)^{2}} \ge \int D'z \frac{\left\{(2e^{\tilde{\chi} - \tilde{q}/2})^{2} + 2e^{\tilde{\chi} - \tilde{q}/2}\cosh(\sqrt{\tilde{q}}z)\right\}^{2}}{\left\{1 + 2e^{\tilde{\chi} - \tilde{q}/2}\cosh(\sqrt{\tilde{q}}z)\right\}^{4}},\tag{B.20}$$

where the conjugate variables are given by (A.14) and (A.15).

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